

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~trimming~~ coupling a stent to a balloon of a balloon catheter, the method comprising:

folding the balloon over the catheter by lateral rotation;

creating protrusions on the balloon by wrapping a member around the folded balloon such that spaced-apart loops of the member wrapped around the balloon compress the folded balloon leaving uncompressed portions of the folded balloon between the spaced apart loops of the member wrapped around the folded balloon to form the protrusions on the folded balloon;

leaving the member wrapped around the balloon for a predetermined period of time;
and

removing the member from the balloon after the predetermined period of time; and
coupling the stent to the balloon by disposing the stent within recesses between the protrusions.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising heating the balloon during ~~at least one of the creating protrusions on the balloon by the wrapping the member around the balloon and the leaving the member wrapped around the balloon for the predetermined period of time.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the member wrapped around the balloon is constructed of one of polytetrafluorethylene ~~[[and]]~~ or polyurethane.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 3, ~~further comprising folding the balloon prior to the creating protrusions on the balloon wherein the balloon is folded~~ by wrapping the member around the balloon.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 4, further comprising the following steps prior to the creating protrusions on the balloon by wrapping the member around the balloon:

introducing a tube of balloon material into a balloon forming mold;
forming the tube of balloon material into a balloon shape; and
taking the balloon out of the mold.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 5, further comprising attaching the balloon to a catheter tubing.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 6, wherein the folding of the balloon, the creating protrusions on the balloon by wrapping the member around the balloon and the removing the member from the balloon after the predetermined period of time are achieved manually.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 6, wherein the folding of the balloon, the creating protrusions on the balloon by wrapping the member around the balloon and the removing the member from the balloon after the predetermined period of time are achieved by a machine.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the member wrapped around the balloon is constructed of one of polytetrafluoroethylene ~~[[[and]]]~~ or polyurethane.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~further comprising folding the balloon prior to the creating protrusions on the balloon wherein the balloon is folded~~ by wrapping the member around the balloon.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, further comprising the following steps prior to the creating protrusions on the balloon by wrapping the member around the balloon:

introducing a tube of balloon material into a balloon forming mold;
forming the tube of balloon material into a balloon shape; and
taking the balloon out of the mold.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, further comprising attaching the balloon to a catheter tubing.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 12, wherein the folding of the balloon, the creating protrusions on the balloon by wrapping the member around the balloon and the removing the member from the balloon after the predetermined period of time are achieved manually.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 12, wherein the folding of the balloon, the creating protrusions on the balloon by wrapping the member around the balloon and the removing the member from the balloon after the predetermined period of time are achieved by a machine.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the following steps prior to the creating protrusions on the balloon by wrapping the member around the balloon:

introducing a tube of balloon material into a balloon forming mold;
forming the tube of balloon material into a balloon shape; and
taking the balloon out of the mold.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising attaching the balloon to a catheter tubing.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the creating protrusions on the balloon by wrapping the member around the balloon and the removing the member from the balloon after the predetermined period of time are achieved manually.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the creating protrusions on the balloon by wrapping the member around the balloon and the removing the member from the balloon after the predetermined period of time are achieved by a machine.

19. (Withdrawn) A balloon catheter comprising:
a foldable and expandable balloon having protrusions on the balloon, the protrusions being created by wrapping a member around the balloon such that spaced-apart loops of the member wrapped around the balloon compress the balloon leaving uncompressed portions of the balloon between the spaced apart loops of the member wrapped around the balloon to form the protrusions on the balloon; leaving the member wrapped around the balloon for a predetermined period of time; and removing the member from the balloon after the predetermined period of time.

20. (Withdrawn) The balloon catheter according to claim 19, wherein the balloon is heated during at least one of the wrapping the member around the balloon and the leaving the member wrapped around the balloon for the predetermined period of time.